

Dear Family,

As we all know, emergencies can strike quickly and without warning. While these events can be frightening for adults, they can be traumatic for children, particularly if they don't know what to do.

Therefore, we will be talking about natural emergencies common to this area through the Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) program. Your students will learn how to implement strategies to prepare for emergencies at home with you. Helping your children prepare for these untimely events can decrease the anxiety they may feel when hearing about worldly disasters, give them a feeling of power in a difficult situation, and could even save their lives.

The STEP program, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and our state Emergency Management Agency, is designed to be age appropriate and engaging to students. Our students will begin by watching a movie called "The Adventures of the Disaster Dudes" that displays emergencies in a fun and non-threatening way.

The goals of the lessons are for your student to:

1. Become familiar with the types of natural emergencies that can affect our area.
2. Work with you to assemble emergency supply items into an emergency kit.
3. Work with you to form a family communications plan.

Parents and guardians that have already undergone the STEP program have given a lot of positive feedback:

"I know that planning for emergencies is important, but it is something I just didn't have time to do myself. I was so glad to see my son take the lead in preparing our family and I loved how much he enjoyed contributing in this way"- *Sandra from Boston, MA.*

We hope we do not have to deal with the effects of an emergency or large scale disaster anytime soon. However, I'm pleased that we are providing our students with the proper tools to be ready in case of such an event.

Sincerely,